

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. New claims 14-20 have been added to further define the invention. Claims 14-20 are based on original claims 3-9.

The Examiner has stated that the proposed drawing correction filed on October 23, 2002 is approved by the Examiner. Accordingly, a corrected Figure 1 is submitted herewith in reply to the Office Action as a replacement for original Figure 1.

Claims 5-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has objected to various phrases within the noted claims as having insufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, claims 5-8 have been amended in order to provide proper antecedent basis. Removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,462,612 to Dreyer et al. The Examiner states that Dreyer et al. discloses a supporting device for semi-trailers with an outer sleeve (1), a spindle (4) for receiving a telescopic inner sleeve (2), and a foot receiving device for attaching a support foot (10) connected to the bottom of the inner sleeve. The Examiner also states that the Dreyer et al. foot receiving device includes a component that occludes the inner sleeve (11, 12 and 14) with an opening for the spindle, a bracing element (15 and part between) at its bottom end and located around an opening, and two opposing bearing points where 10 and 12 meet adapted to accommodate the support foot. The Examiner further states that the bracing element extends between the bearing points and includes ribs with a curved shape.

The Dreyer et al. reference relates to a telescopic supporting device having a supporting leg 2 projecting from a guide tube 1, wherein the lower end of the supporting includes a detachably fastened articulated foot, see Abstract. The object of Dreyer et al. is to create a supporting device, in which there exists the possibility of a larger stroke length with respect to the constructive length and of a larger swinging angle for the foot, both with simple means while still having large load capacity and longevity, see Col. 1, lines 63-68.

Consequently, the object of the present invention is to create a supporting device for a support foot which has greater space for a spindle in order that the spindle travel can be increased. In the relevant art, a spindle is a component that is connected to a gear arranged in the

top section of the supporting device in order to extend or retract the inner sleeve in relation to the outer sleeve, i.e. items 26 and 25 respectively as shown in Figure 7 and items 2 and 1 respectively as shown in Figure 3 of Dreyer et al.

Figure 1 of the present invention shows the situation with the inner sleeve 8 in a retracted position. In this situation, the lower end of spindle 11 is outside of and below inner sleeve 8. Thus, spindle 11 in this position is extended into opening 3 of the foot receiving device.

To the contrary, Figure 3 of Dreyer et al. shows ground plate 5 which is attached to the lower edge of inner sleeve 2. Ground plate 5 has no opening for spindle penetration. A spindle, which is not shown in Figure 3 of Dreyer et al. cannot move below the lower edge of the inner sleeve 2. Accordingly, Dreyer et al. can only correspond to the prior art that is already mentioned in the application and cannot teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in independent claim 1.

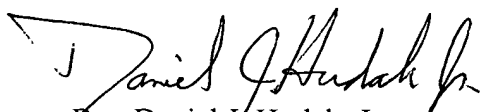
Thus, Dreyer et al. lacks, as claimed in independent claim 1, a foot receiving device connected to a bottom end of the inner sleeve comprising an opening for spindle penetration because the ground plate 5 is closed

Components 11, 12 and 14 do not relate to an opening for the spindle as suggested by the Examiner, but only relates to foot 3. It is further pointed out that item 15 noted by the Examiner in Dreyer et al. does not relate to a bracing element and instead teaches a circular rim 15 of plate 11 which is the foot plate.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been overcome with response to this Office Action. It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and a notice of such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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